GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:183
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Assistance to Cardamom Farmers
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that spices farmers especially the cardamom farmers in South India suffer crop loss due to deficient rainfall and high temperature;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to help them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): In view of the prevalence of long dry spell in cardamom growing areas of South India, Spices Board had constituted a team to assess its impact on the cardamom production. The study was done in the Idukki District of Kerala, as it produces 80% of small cardamom production of the country. As per the report of the team, the prolonged dry spell with high temperature prevailed from December 2015 to first fortnight of May 2016 and this period is the crucial period for development of tillers and panicle initiation and development in cardamom. The team estimated that on an average about 10% plant loss and 20-25% crop loss may occur in Idukki District of Kerala during 2016-17.

(c): Government through the Spices Board is implementing different programmes/schemes and providing financial assistance to the farmers for the development of cardamom. Apart from the regular schemes implemented by Spices Board for the development of cardamom, the Spices Board is also focusing on providing support to farmers through cardamom replanting scheme wherever plant loss is noticed, developing water resources through storage structures like farm ponds, wells, rain water harvesting devices, assistance for purchase of irrigation equipments and conducting the training/campaigns to educate the farmers on mulching/shade maintenance and irrigation etc.
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